Tribal gunmen threaten to kill 48 hostages

By Dennis Jay Santos and Franklin A. Caliguid
Inquirer Mindanao

SAN MARTIN, PROSPERIDAD, AGUSAN del Sur—Tribal gunmen yesterday freed nine of the 57 hostages they were holding in their mountain lair in Mindanao, and warned they would kill their other captives if government forces attempted a rescue.

The gang's leader, Ondo Perez, aired the threat in an interview with an Agusan

TRIBAL A11



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

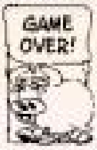
Saturday, December 12, 2009 ★★ Vol. 25 / No. 4

'Tiger Hunting' game a big hit in the Internet

WASHINGTON—IT was bound to happen. The Tiger Woods scandal is now an online game.

"Tiger Hunting," which can be found at ...

TIGER A17



'Bolder' martial law seen

Miriam names 4 suspects out to seize power, preempt polls

By Christine O. Avendaño

DISTURBED BY EVENTS that occurred on Thursday in Mindanao, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago warned of a "conspiracy" to bring about a "bolder" martial law beyond the province of Maguindanao.

Santiago, a staunch ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the objective of the alleged conspiracy was to "seize power and preempt the national elections" in 2010.

She named four suspects behind the purported plot—the powerful Ampatuan clan believed responsible for the Nov. 23 massacre of 57 persons, the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), a "cabal" supported by a group of military officials including the defense and interior secretaries, and "a new RAM" in the military (a reference to the Reform the Armed Forces Movement that mounted a series of coup attempts against the administration of the late President Corazon Aquino).

Maguindanao has been under martial law since Dec. 4 as a result of what Malacañang had described as a looming rebellion among the supporters and followers of the Ampatuans, who are closely allied with the President.

Interviewed yesterday by reporters, Santiago expressed concern over the hostage-taking of 75 people in Agusan del Sur, the beheading of kidnap victim ...

BOLDER A6



IN THE DARK Government forces conduct clearing operations in Barangay Labu-Labu, town of Ampatuan, where a police and military convoy was reportedly ambushed by three unidentified men Thursday night. The convoy was heading for General Santos City carrying evidence of the Nov. 23 massacre. Nobody was reported hurt in the ambush.

PNP: Ambush not staged; we're risking our lives

By Marlon Ramos and Inquirer Mindanao

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—State forces intensified their patrol operations here after armed men on Thursday night shot at a convoy carrying an arms cache found in a property owned by Maguindanao warlord Andal Ampatuan Sr.

No one was hurt in the "ambush" that left bullet holes in the rear portion of a marked vehicle of Senior Supt. Willy Dangane, the police chief of Cotabato City and the chief investigator of Task Force Alpha 12.

Dangane, who was in the vehicle's front passenger seat, yesterday claimed that the attack was meant to sabotage the inquiry into the purported role of the powerful Ampatuans in the Nov. 23 massacre of 57 people in a town named after the family.

He expressed resentment at comments that the incident was staged to justify martial rule in Maguindanao.

"I will never risk my life for such foolishness. It's an ambush. Why would somebody shoot a police car?" Dangane told the Inquirer, adding that "somebody" might have ordered the attack.

Chief Supt. Felicisimo Khu, the chief of Task Force Alpha 12, also rejected insinuations that the ambush had been staged.

PNP AMBUSH A6

Copenhagen circus: Too much talking, doing too little too late

By Tony Oposa

COMMENTARY

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH GOLD?

The highly vulnerable countries like the small-island states and the Philippines are now suffering irreversible damage and irreparable injury as a result of climate change.

The crumbs that the overconsuming countries (OCCs) are dangling before the highly vulnerable countries (HVCs) as possible adaptation funds are a form of legalized bribery to the leaders of these countries to silence them in international forums.

Money poured into the HVCs, which often suffer from a lack of good governance systems, often simply find their way into wasteful projects, if not lining undesirable pockets.

Besides, what will small-island states do with all the gold in the world when they are sinking? Gold will only weigh

COPENHAGEN A11

GMA signs law to protect two holy mountains

By TJ Burgonio

MOUNTS BANAHAW AND SAN Cristobal, two favorite trekking destinations closed to the public since five years ago to allow their "healing" after decades of human destruction, have been declared protected areas.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday signed into law Republic Act 9847

GMA SIGNS A6



A PUSH FOR LEARNING CNN Hero Efren Peñaflorida (center) pushes his "kariton klasrum" along Ayala Avenue in Makati City during the "Pinoy Power" concert rally and mobilization on Friday to pay tribute to this hero from Cavite. Other reform groups push their carts to dramatize the country's need for everyday heroes. He is flanked by former Miss International Aurora Pijuan and Jim Paredes of Apo Hiking Society.

Nobel Peace winner Obama, makes striking defense of war



US PRESIDENT Obama now belongs to the "giants of history"

OSLO, NORWAY—US PRESIDENT Barack Obama accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with a striking defense of war, saying that evil must be vigorously opposed even as he made an impassioned case for building a "just and lasting peace."

"I face the world as it is, and cannot stand idle in the face of threats to the American people," Obama told his audience Thursday in Oslo's soaring City Hall as

NOBEL A11



IMPATIENT Protesters from "The World Can't Wait" demonstrate during a "coffin march" in New York against US President Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Prize.

CNN Hero robbed at Naia; Pinoy power pushed in rally

By Nina Calleja

BARELY TWO WEEKS AFTER BEING named CNN Hero of the Year, Efren Peñaflorida was robbed yesterday as he was stepping out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Peñaflorida, who founded Dynamic Teen Co. (DTC) and started the novel idea of the "pushcart (kariton) classroom" had just arrived from a speaking engagement in Hong Kong and was on his way to a concert rally in Makati City.

CNN HERO A6

WEATHER FORECAST

[illegible]

Second FRONTPAGE



10 5 2 10 29 10

0 4 9 7 8 6

3 4 6 0 2 6 0

MEGALOTTO 6/45

2 4 14 16 17 19

P13,791,425.40

BASILAN KIDNAPPING

DepEd appeals for school exec

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. in Manila and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION YESTERDAY appealed for the safe release of the vice president of the Basilan State College who was abducted on Thursday night in Isabela City, Basilan, by still unidentified armed men.

[illegible]

Another blow

[illegible]



HONORING THE VICTIMS

Women lawyers, churchworkers and human rights defenders gather at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City to pay tribute to lawyers Concepcion Brizuela and Cynthia Oquendo, two of the women victims in the Nov. 23 Maguindanao massacre. In photo are [illegible], cousin of Brizuela, Sister Mary John Mananzan and Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza. [illegible]

'WE CAN'T DEBATE TILL ETERNITY'

Congress set to rule on martial law

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HOUSE SPEAKER PROSPERO Nograles yesterday expressed confidence the joint session of Congress would be able to final[ly] decide on [illegible] whether to revoke or support the declaration of martial law in Maguindanao.

[illegible]

GMA checks into hospital

By TJ Burgonio

[illegible]

Lawyers seek early elections in ARMM

Vigilance

Broad powers

History of fraud







8 more kilos of cocaine found in Davao

By Jeffrey Tupas
Mindanao Bureau and
Nancy C. Carvajal in Manila

DAVAO CITY—POLICE FOUND EIGHT more kilograms of high-grade cocaine inside the Maersk Zeeland container yard near Davao's old airport in the Sasa district here on Friday bringing the total haul of cocaine to 16 kilos with an estimated market value of at least P112 million.

Senior Supt. Ramon Apolinario, city police chief, said the illegal drugs were discovered inside the roofer machine of another container van and were packed in small packages weighing one kilogram each. The seized illegal drugs are worth P7 million per kilogram.

Chief Supt. Pedro Tango, police chief for Southern Mindanao, said the new discovery was made around 12:30 p.m. on Friday after operatives of the Davao City Police Office conducted follow-up operations after confirming that the eight kilograms of packs found inside two vans Wednesday night indeed contained cocaine.

"We have found a total of at least 16 kilos of high-grade cocaine from these container vans, and we expect to find more based on the information we received," Tango said.

Tango said the search for more illegal drugs is ongoing and all cargo vans going out of the container yard are being subjected to police search before they're allowed to leave the premises.

There are around 3,000 container vans inside the Maersk container yard.

"They have the same source because the packing is the same and is also hidden in the van's roofer machine," Tango said.

Sasa village chair Mario Reta said they have long been suspecting that the container yard in his village was being used to transship illegal drugs.

He, however, allowed that it was difficult to verify the reports.

It was learned that the illegal drugs were first discovered by a certain Jesus Cardis, a worker of Maersk, on Wednesday evening. Cardis and his coworker even played with the drugs thinking they were just flour.

That same evening, Maersk management called up the police after suspecting that the contraband could be drugs.

It was only on Thursday that authorities confirmed that the haul were high-grade cocaine.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte expressed surprise at the discovery but quickly assured that the seized packages were not intended for Davao but for distribution to other countries.

Duterte said the sheer volume of the drugs assured him and that the relevance should immediately be learned.

"I would like to know where the cargo is heading. This is for the kids, meaning this is intended for another destination. Not Davao, but in the Philippines. It must be for some other places other than Davao City. But we could be wrong, but that will that not true; this is not for Davao," Duterte said.

Supt. Aldrin Delos, Sasa police station chief, said an informant had tipped on the presence of the illegal drugs inside the Maersk container yard.

"We have received the information that the container yard, for sometime now, had been used in transporting illegal drugs," he said.

Asked if the shipment were owned by politicians in Mindanao, Delos replied that he could not say at the moment because the investigation was still at its early stage.

"There are other agencies investigating, but at the moment we cannot yet determine if certain personalities could be involved in the shipment of these illegal drugs," Delos said.

Records showed that the vans separately arrived in Davao on Nov. 18, Dec. 3 and Dec 10.

One of the vans came from Malaysia on Nov. 18 and passed by Malaysia and stopped over Davao. Another van came from India on Dec. 3 and also passed by Malaysia and stopped over Davao.

Tango said that based on papers of origin of the three vans were Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore.

He added that the vans came from various destinations, but all passed through Malaysia before it finally arrived in the country.

Apolinario said they want to know where the container vans would be brought.

He said there was no consignee because the vans arrived in the city empty after delivering goods, mostly fresh fruits, abroad.

Maersk has been cooperating with the police and has provided the police with the details of the vans that arrived recently, Apolinario said.

"The investigation may include those from company shippers, but we cannot discount the possibility of an inside job," he said.



MAYOR Rodrigo Duterte (center) examines the seized illegal drugs while a member of the Davao police inspects the premises with a sniffing dog (right photo). [illegible]



GMA signs law against war crimes

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo [illegible]

Meralco safety tips







Multiple murder raps filed vs 100 new suspects

By Norman Bordadora

[illegible]

'Force multipliers'

[illegible]

Rebellion, murder raps

[illegible]

GMA signs law to protect two holy mountains

From page A1

[illegible]

Protecting flora and fauna

[illegible]

Signs of restoration

[illegible]



THE MYSTICAL mountains of Banahaw and San Cristobal [illegible]

Biggest flower in the world

[illegible]

CNN Hero robbed at Naia; Pinoy power pushed in rally

From page A1

[illegible]

The suspect

[illegible]

No idea

[illegible]

Hero, right here

[illegible]

Better watch out, BIR warns 'tiangge' owners

SunTAX Class

Shortfall



PCGG gives Tan brod last chance

The Daily Gospel



'Bolder' martial law, Miriam warns of conspiracy

Not random developments

GMA 'under pressure'?



SIDE BY SIDE.

'Normalcy' returning

The arrest of 161 suspects

De Lima's warning

Seat of power

Plot suspects

'Kick out advisers'

'Invisible hand'

PNP: Ambush not staged; we're risking our lives in doing our job

Where it happened

No sighting, but . . .



PARENTAL TO ARMS

Attack 'by chance'

Why at night?



SM RESIDENCES
Five-star homes, in prime locations now affordable.
WITNESS THE RISE OF OUR NEWEST GEMS.
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SMDC
The good guys!

Malacañang lashes out at critics of martial law

Tribal gunmen threaten to kill 48 hostages





Copenhagen circus: Too much talking, doing too little too late





Prioritize public schools reforms, Gibo urges gov't

'Chinglish' threatens call center industry



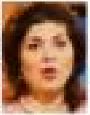






Bro. Eddie vows to stamp out corruption in a year

US envoy reaches out to Muslim youths







INQUIRER

OPINION

Shock and awe

EDITORIAL



Martial law in Maguindanao

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

Dec. 4, 2009: a day to remember

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

Waging peace

Social Climate



Mahar Mangahas

The world of words

Young Blood

Olivia Estrella

Books for the 12 days of Christmas

Commentary

Neni Sta. Romana Cruz

Resurrecting dead capital

Business Matters



Alberto A. Lim

Notice to Youngblood contributors

They Said

Fatal inaction

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Is there need for martial law?

LETTERS

A blot on image of Christian nation

Why repatriation takes some time

Letter a blatant lie, cited statements meant to conceal facts

Clarification on bishops' 'inaction'

Ampatuans asked to bare electoral fraud in '04 and '07

The Obama doctrine: A case for war in support of peace

Principles of US policy

Republican praise



FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER United States Marine Cpl. ... in the volatile Helmand province of southern Afghanistan, on Thursday.

Grand restatement

Nobel Peace winner Obama, makes striking defense of war



NOBEL MOMENT First Lady Michelle Obama and US President Barack Obama at the Grand Hotel in Oslo before attending the Nobel Prize banquet on Thursday.

Hawkish message

When war is justified

Revamped US stance

Toasting his mother

Why he won

'Tiger Hunting' game a big hit in the Internet



GRAB... A video grab from the "Tiger Hunting" game that has already registered more than one million hits on the Internet.

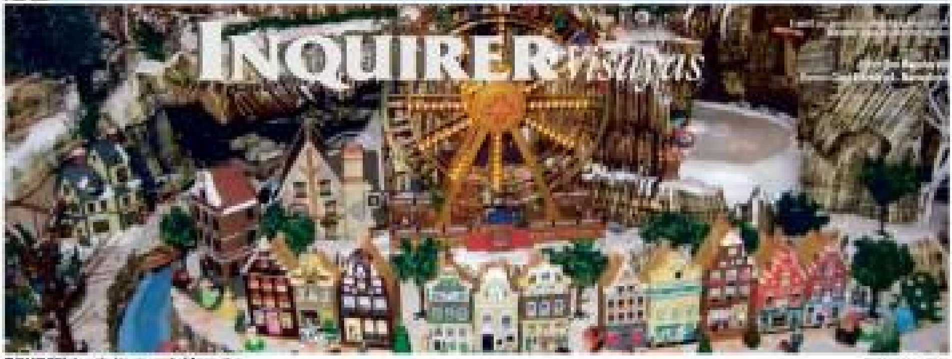


BEFORE THE FALL Golfer Tiger Woods, his daughter Sam, his mother Kultida and his wife Elin Nordegren pose in front of a bronze statue bearing the likeness of Tiger with his late father Earl during its unveiling inside the Tiger Woods Learning Center in Anaheim, California, in this Jan. 31, 2008 photo.

Surge in Internet traffic

Like when Jacko died

Easier to put ads



THE HOUSES along the historic canals of Amsterdam

Christmas Village goes European

By Carla P. Gomez

HOUSES ALONG THE historic canals of Amsterdam, a mosaic bench by Antonio Gaudi at Park Guell in Barcelona, and the imposing Gothic Notre Dame Cathedral and iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris are all lighted up for Christmas.

Skies and mountains



Across the NATION

To evacuate or stay a tough call for villagers in martial law area

AMPATUAN, MAGUINDANAO—Martial law offered only two choices for residents of a village here where 57 people were murdered on Nov. 23—leave or stay put.



Fear

Surreal

2 martial laws

New generation

Plowing forbidden



Massacre now case study for military academies

Military academies

History lessons

Kin of lawyer slain in 2006 say killer is not an Ampatuan

Bishop to Panlilio: Say goodbye to priesthood

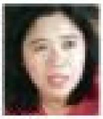




Poll exec: Rule on Padaca ain't syndicate work



FERRER



PADACA

NEWSBRIEFS

Metro cop slain

Fertilizer aid arrives

NPC 'solid as ever'

WASTE COLLECTION HEADACHE

Baguio garbage spills over to Benguet



Garbage evidence

Development plan

Benguet's headache

Think Baguio is cold? Try bathing in Benguet farms

Dropping

Bathing difficult

First in line

Hit by tragedy

CamSur farmers, fishermen row for another reason



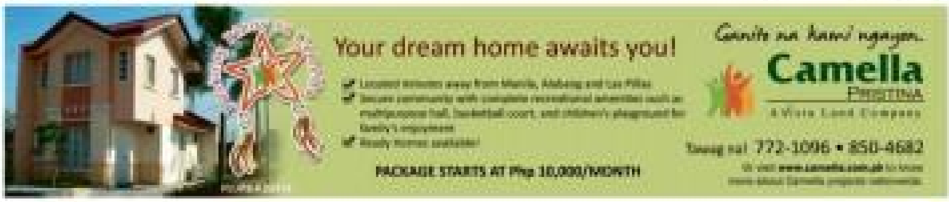
Swiss gov't turns over houses to Laguna flood victims




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P139
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All Dermo Expertise products except Derma Genesis
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All Studio Line products.
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MAYBELLINE NEW YORK
30% OFF ON ALL PRODUCTS BELOW P250 (Based on SRP)
P209
P209
P419
HYPERCURL
Long EXTREME MASCARA
P279
P419
ALSO AVAILABLE! GREAT GIFTS BELOW P250
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P139
P249
Take care. GARNIER
bright light
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GARNIER
Nutrisse
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THE LANDMARK
SHOPWISE
METRO
Lee Super Plaza
Robinsons
first aid

A plus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday





STA. CRUZ TRAGEDY

2 kids, volunteer die in blaze

By Jeannette I. Andrade

U-turn slots get new look

By Nina Calleja



Maynilad, Manila Water appeal wastewater fine

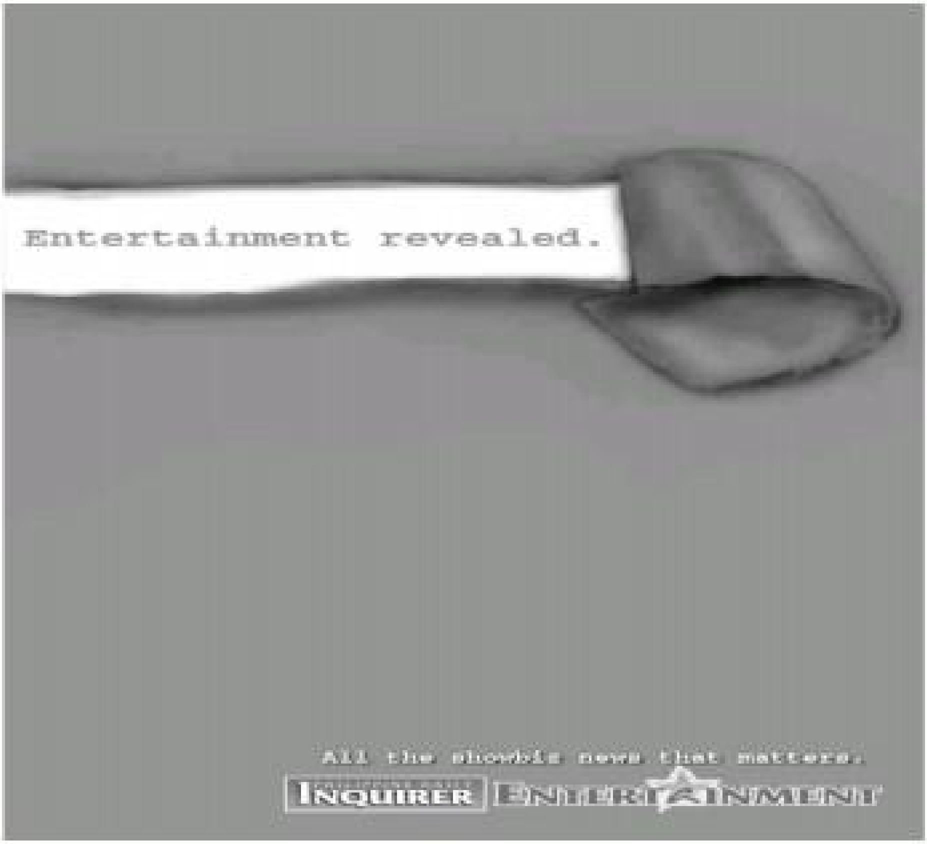
Trader facing grave threats charge finally surfaces

The key to prosperity and other topics

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo



U-turn slots get new look



The WORLD

Europe to pledge billions in aid in climate battle

COPENHAGEN—EUROPEAN LEADERS MET ON THURSDAY TO discuss billions of dollars of aid for developing countries to battle global warming in a bid to increase pressure for a deal at the UN climate summit.

[illegible]



[illegible]

Few punished, paid 1 year after Madoff arrest

[illegible]



[illegible]

Russian missile may be behind Norway lights

[illegible]

US teens ignore laws vs texting while driving

[illegible]

Egypt going underground to stem Gaza smuggling

[illegible]

US envoy says N. Korea sees need to rejoin talks

[illegible]

Celebrate the triumph of the human spirit.


'Greatest fighter of

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Pacquiao squashes Cotto with TKO win

Victory lifts Filipino spirit

Read our daily sports news and analyses

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SPORTS



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Juvic goes all the way in Canlubang /A29

SPORTS

■ Celtics zap Wizards /A30





RP manages 3 more golds, slips to sixth



Boxers Suarez, Vicera score, but Tipon falls



Diver Perez loses title, blames spotty judging





PEREZ: Robbed

Golfers 6 off Singaporeans

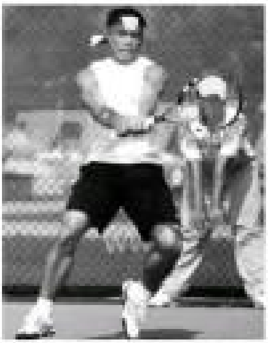
Go raises tracksters medal bid to 9 golds



Host Laos happy; RP ashamed

BARE EYE





Last hurrah for Tañamor



RP manages 3 golds ...

Southwoods virtual Fil-Am champ

Foreign aces hot faves as Flatmaster BMX fires off

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Realtors crush Taulava, Tigers

By Cedelf P. Tupas



Juvic goes all the way in Canlubang



PAGUNSAN: P200,000 richer

USC-North eyes triple FBL crowns

Softball Pilipinas comes out swinging today with triple bill

Espiritu, Reynante head Criterium bike bidders

DRAG RACING

Tiu, Go gun for titles

UFL-LBC Cup Finals All Set

New NCA season on

SPORTS

Celtics zap Wizards



BOSTON Celtics captain Paul Pierce (front) loses control of the ball ... against the defense of Andray Blatche of the Washington Wizards during the first half of their NBA game. Pierce struggled the entire match after falling into foul trouble, but the Celtics picked things up behind Rajon Rondo, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen, who became just the 22nd player to score 20,000 points in the NBA. [illegible]

Jazz rebound, trip Magic

WASHINGTON—THE BOSTON CELTICS [illegible]

[illegible]



UPMG 1st ADBOARD CUP CHAMPIONS

The golf team from the United Print Media Group (UPMG) receive the perpetual Championship trophy in the recently concluded 1st ADBOARD Cup final leg held at the Mimosa golf and country club in Clark, Pampanga. Officially awarding the championship trophy were Mr. Ed Acosta, ADCON sports committee chairman and Mr. Frank Abesco, ADCON golf committee chairman. Team UPMG garnered a total of 135 points in the four leg tournament while the Team KBP came in second place with 132 points. The UPMG golf team members present during the awarding ceremony were led by team captain Ricky Alegre, Co-captain Danny Ocampo and golf team members: Anton Cabangon, Dolfin Perez, Dino Datu, Ronnie Florence, Randy Cabangon, Mike Besa, Roger Garcia, Maney Atienza and Robert Garcia. Not in photo are: Jojo Robles, Alex Magno, Mary Ann Llanes, Anthony Cuayco.ng, Kim Cabase and Jong Arcano

Big foreign field at World Slasher Cup

LAST YEAR'S WINNER [illegible]



COMBAT POSITION Japan's [illegible]

Nicklaus on Tiger: He'll figure it out

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida—Jack Nicklaus [illegible]

[illegible]



BUSINESS



BSP backs repeal of agri-agra law

Tetangco cites lack of credit demand

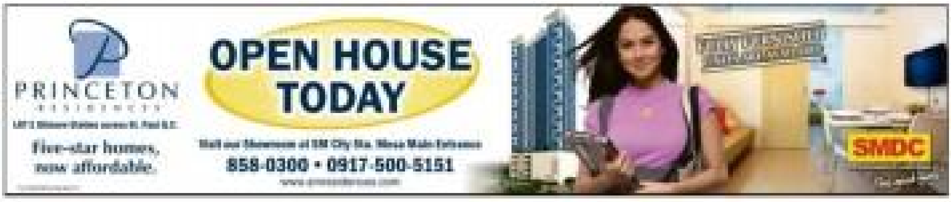
By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS BACKED calls for the relaxation or even a repeal of a law requiring banks to automatically set aside 25 percent of their loanable funds for the agriculture sector.

[illegible]

IN THIS ISSUE





Globe contributing $60M to fiber optic project

World's highest capacity cable system

Stocks rise slightly on Wall St. climb

Ayala unit expands London operations

Ongpin group acquires mine firm

BSP backs repeal of agri-agra law

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

Easycall raises cash for broadband venture

Asia Oil nets ₱263M in first ten months

Blacklist, blackmail, black-eye

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III



China industrial output up in Nov.

Inflation starts making a comeback



Stocks firm on China data; yen dips

Next hot jobs in the United States: keeping tabs on financial firms

Banker bonuses, Greece in focus at EU summit



Clean energy to grow into $2.4-T sector

Boeing says Dreamliner could fly soon

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

National Food Authority
Region XII
Tacurong City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

OBITUARIES

More Classifieds

NFA A4

PSALM A4

LTO A6

Quedancor A6

SSS A6

VICTORINO ASIADAO BASCO

died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on November 21, 2009 at the age of 76.

His wife, children, in-laws, nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 6 of Mortuary and Crematory of The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Necrological Mass will be on Saturday, December 12, 2009 after the 8:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

Inurnment will be at St. James the Great Lower Chapel, Ayala Alabang on Sunday, December 13, 2009 after the 11:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

BALTAZAR RIVERA ESPIRITU JR.

peacefully joined his Creator on December 9, 2009 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **Jazmin Lazaro**, only child **Gerard Mark**; brothers and sisters: **Lourdes**, **Remedios**, **Remigio (Ondis)**, **Leonor**, **Maynardo** and **Zenaida**; pets: **Havoline** and **Kuya Jude**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at #17 U.E. Tech. Avenue, University Hills, Caloocan City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. mass at the Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, University Hills.

"I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are Yours". – John 17:9

† AGNES TSE GOTUACO

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF THE **SOUTHWEST MARITIME GROUP OF COMPANIES** ANNOUNCE WITH DEEP SORROW THE PASSING OF ITS BELOVED CHAIRMAN,

CAPT. VICTORINO A. BASCO (PN, Ret.)

November 3, 1933 – December 8, 2009

WE REQUEST THE PIOUS READER TO PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

HIS REMAINS ARE AT THE HERITAGE PARK, FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG CITY. NECROLOGICAL SERVICES WILL FOLLOW AFTER THE 7:00 PM MASS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009

INURNMENT WILL FOLLOW THE FUNERAL MASS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009, 11:00 AM AT THE ST. JAMES THE GREAT PARISH, AYALA ALABANG VILLAGE, MUNTINLUPA CITY

Business

Gov't debt stands at P4.34T

Issuance of retail treasury bonds accounted for rise in obligations

10 companies get to bid for power projects

BSP: Banks extended less loans in October

BSP expects consumption growth to slow down in 4th quarter

PROPERTY





Rising out of the shadows

More and more low- to middle-income families will be more empowered to buy houses they could call their own

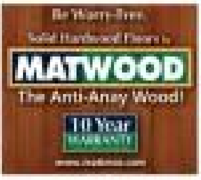
[illegible]

Major projects

[illegible]

Empowered

[illegible]





SCIENCE/HEALTH

BANKING UMBILICAL CORD BLOOD

First cerebral palsy treatment in Singapore





3 reasons to stop meat feast

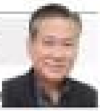
Sweet standards

DISCOVER



Smoking during pregnancy

MEDICAL FILES



Neighborhood centers the latest option in retail

LIVING ARCHITECTURE



SM Residences unveils 4 new condo projects



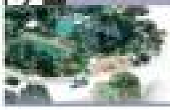


The new projects are bound to change the cityscape with a familiar brand name

Flügger introducing environmental paint to RP



Property





Deck the halls: the Christmas season is here!

DESIGN DIMENSIONS



Isabel Dominguez Azarcon

THE MORNINGS ARE GETTING COOLER, ...



A DESKTOP ... Christmas tree.



THIS ... Christmas "tree" ...

How to deck the halls

Super LifeStyle

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation







Batista drops the bomb!

Animal pride of the Philippines

A DJ MO TWISTER emphatically introduced five-time WWE World Heavyweight Champion Dave Batista at a presscon last weekend, something inside me lit up.

[illegible]

Odd collector

[illegible]

Break it down... the dance floor!

[illegible]

Fan of Pacman

[illegible]

Proud father, proud Filipino

[illegible]

A dying art

[illegible]

Is Batista Bomb's clock ticking?

[illegible]

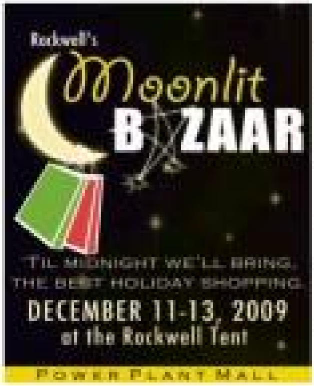


[illegible]

Win a date with Lenka!

[illegible]

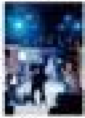




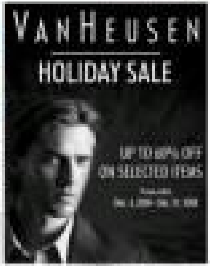
'Surround yourself with people with the same dreams... That goes a long way'



Get ready for these emerging acts







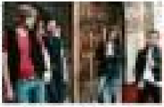
Animal attraction





24/7 SUPER RADAR

Eat-all-you-can ice cream for that holiday chill



The Killers in Manila Jan. 2010





SEEING RED

Inspired by British street fashion, one can look sleek with that red plaid shirt, with lose grey slacks. Just accessorize it with a yellow belt for character.



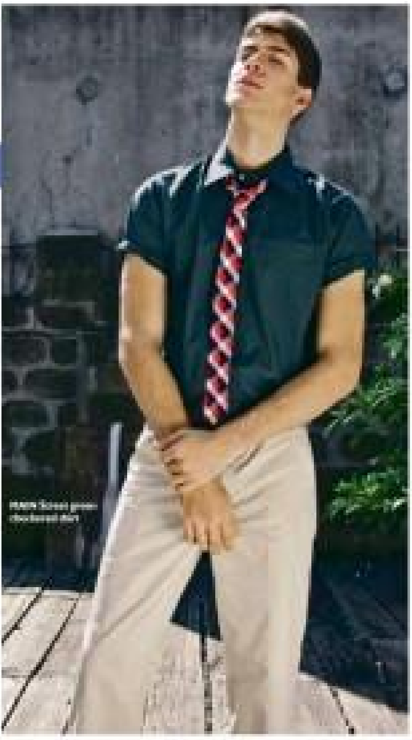
MAIN Street red plaid shirt

Never go short on style

SM Department Store showcases Uberto Duranti and Main Street, a choice of short sleeve shirts with stylish patterns suited for both work and play.

LOOKING SMART

When at work, a green checkered shirt, khaki pants and a plaid tie makes an effortless look.



MAIN Street green checkered shirt



Main Street blue plaid shirt

COOL CAT

That classic check pattern, with matching aviator sunglasses and black jeans makes you all set for some fun and relaxation.

Find your style from a wide array of designs from stripes, plaids to checks.



Uberto Duranti purple pin striped shirt



Main Street maroon checkered shirt



Uberto Duranti white and black striped shirt



Main Street brown pinstriped shirt



Uberto Duranti grey pinstriped shirt



Uberto Duranti white and grey striped shirt

Super LifeStyle

12 places, cocktails

Even Santa will skip the milk and cookies for these babies

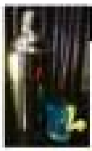
By Pam Pastor

THESE DAYS, WE ALL NEED A DRINK.









Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

A life-loving Linden

Sky Fiesta Adventure at Crown Regency

Christmas and New Year at One Tagaytay Place

Hail a glitzy and glamourous 2010 at Dusit Thani Manila

Savor the goodness of The Richmonde Lobby Café's holiday treats

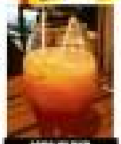


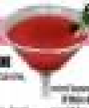
Microtel



12 places, cocktails











Tours, Leisure & Chow

Quantum Hotels and Resorts and the Malayan Plaza celebrate the colors of Christmas

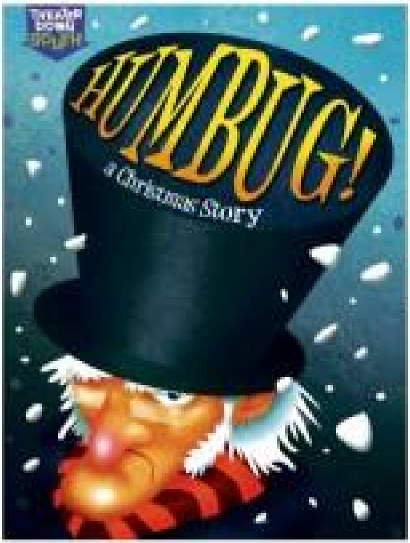


Dimsum Diner: Great food, fast service at a reasonable price

SuperSaver is back at Pan Pacific Manila

Your December Date at the Podium

Make it a date with your loved ones to shop at the Podium's upscale stores, dine at its specialty restaurants, and watch a-list performances that are all holiday, all fun.



HUMBUG! A CHRISTMAS STORY December 13

[illegible]



BASIL VALDEZ December 13

[illegible]





SPOTLIGHT ARTISTS CENTRE'S SHOWCASE December 12

[illegible]



THE KUNDIMANA December 19

[illegible]

2bU LIFESTYLE



With passion and imagination, let's talk, play and love!



Samsung Corby, the hippest Addition to Samsung's Full touch lineup.

Aims Bigger Slice of Youth Market

So who says touch-screen phones are for squares? Samsung Mobile's newest foray into the touch-screen market will definitely make younger heads turn. The Samsung Corby (S3653), a full touch-screen phone just hit the market. Contrasting with the typical rectangular forms of other touch-screen phones, the Samsung Corby's sensual lines stand out for its stylish and distinctive curved design. The device actually represents a complete makeover for the youth segment, with its eye-catching profile featuring two-tone diagonal lines, that comes in cheerfully colored back cover designs. The Samsung Corby is notable for both its body design and colors — a significant break from the traditional full touch phone design.

Samsung Corby is also made for the needs of todays youth, supporting popular network sites like Facebook, Twitter and Youtube as well as access to instant messaging. Other exciting features designed with the youth in mind include the One-Finger Zoom, Smart Unlock, 23 pre-installed widgets.

"With the Corby, Samsung is making a bigger foray into the youth market. Given that existing full touch-screen models are tailored for businesspeople, we are aiming to gain a growing presence in the market by attracting younger consumers," Younghee Lee, Vice President of Mobile Communications Division, Samsung Electronics said. This approach is a significant expansion for Samsung, which reemphasizes Samsung's "Touch for every lifestyle" strategy. The Samsung Corby is the newest addition to the full-touch mobiles Samsung has introduced throughout the year such as the brilliant touch performance of Jet to the Omnia II, the all-in-one redefined smartphone. Further enhancing its appeal to younger consumers, the Corby supports popular social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, as well as offering entertainment access features and a special UI. "To tap into the rapidly growing touch-screen phone market, Samsung continues to unveil a diverse product line that aims to secure its market leadership down the road," Younghee Lee added.

Samsung CORBY (S3653) Main Features:

- Quad Band (850 / 900 / 1800 / 1900 MHz)
- GPRS, EDGE
- 103 x 56.5 x 12.4mm / 90 g
- 2.8" 262K Color QVGA TFT Screen
- Bluetooth v2.1
- USB v2.0 High Speed
- MP3, AAC, AAC+, e-AAC+, WMA, AMR
- Find Music
- H.263, MPEG4, WMV, ASF
- 2 Mega
- Panorama shot / smile shot
- 9 community sites available
- 23 widgets pre-installed
- 40 widgets downloadable (of 180 widgets)
- Fashion Jacket (patterned design cover)
- Black color battery cover





One dress, five looks



Gifts that give back to society











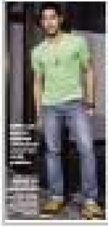




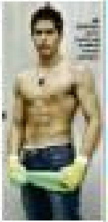
Bake your own melt Christmas goodies



Jone Silayan and his 'physical chess'







2bU LifeStyle

Gifts to make you grin and giggle





Stuff has the stuff



TOFU clock







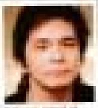
2bU LifeStyle

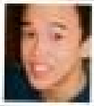


What the young think of CNN Hero Efren Peñaflorida

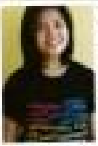


'He started doing his heroic act at 16! When I was that age, my world revolved just around my family and friends'



















giving GUIDE

foodie GUIDE

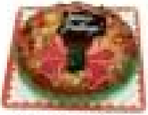
Super Holidays at SM Pasig











































Davao *college band* gets the break

By Jeffrey Alan Diva
Contributor

FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, Nescafé 3in1 has given energized bands the chance to become the next hit in the music scene through its "Soundskool: Battle of the College Bands" competition.

The contest has proven to be a great way to give young college bands the big break in the music industry, while emphasizing the importance of balancing their artistic passion with their studies.

Soundskool has helped launch some of today's talents like Sibya in 2005, Hilera in 2006, Lazy Susan in 2007, and Letter Day Story in 2008. All four bands have found their own niche on the music scene.

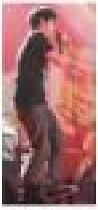
This year, first-timer Eevee, the college band from Davao, proved its mettle against some of the country's best up-and-coming college bands.

"This is our first time to join the competition. Getting past the Mindanao leg was already a big achievement for us," said Ezra Miguel Villegas, the front man and guitarist of Eevee.

"We just wanted to have fun, play our original compositions before a new audience, make new friends, and see our favorite bands play. Winning was just the cherry on top of the cake. It was unexpected," he added.

The other band members include Pada Raymundo Segura on lead guitar, Jerrick Adrian Go on bass and Craig John Nadal on drums.

Eevee beat over a hundred contenders in the Nescafé 3-in-1 'Soundskool' contest



EEVEE performing with Padilla



EEVEE performs their original "Dance the Long Hip Girlfriend."



PUPPETS Wendell Fernandez jams with a Soundskool finalist.

Humble beginnings

Eevee bested 12 of the best college bands from across the country in the finals night last November. This year's band finalists that performed at the Ninoy Aquino Sports Stadium included Little Robert Dinner from Ateneo de Cagayan and Xavier University; Eevee from Philippine Women's College, Davao; ... from St. Michael's College, Iligan City; ... from AMA, Tacloban; ... from Bohol; ... University of the Visayas, Cebu; ... from Colegio de San Juan de Letran Calamba; ... from Lyceum and St. Cabrini College of Allied Medicine, Batangas; ... University of Perpetual Help Laguna in Biñan; ... from Mapua Institute of Technology in Makati; ... from Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Quezon City; ... from AMA and International Academy of Technology in Cabanatuan; and ... from Jose Rizal University.

Eevee grabbed a cash prize of P200,000, an exclusive record label deal with Sony Music Entertainment Philippines, and P150,000 worth of music equipment for the school they represented.

The members of Eevee all had humble beginnings at the Philippine Women's College of Davao, which helped them build strong bond with each other.

"We are only seven months old as a group, but we've all been part of Davao's young music scene, since we were part of different bands before," explained Segura.

The guys say they don't take things too seriously. This works to their advantage most of the time. They are able to write catchy lyrics and infectious melodies. They find inspiration from known OPM rocks.

"It's hard to explain our sound, but we all are characteristic members as musicians who love to make a hodgepodge of feel-good tracks for music lovers of all ages," explained Ily.

The band's name was taken from their front man's initials, E.V (Ezra Miguel Villegas). It's also the name of a popular Pokémon character.

"We chose to use it because it's catchy and easy to remember," said Nescafé.

Aside from the music competition, Nescafé 3in1's Soundskool became an avenue to help young musicians develop their skills on and offstage through a head-to-toe makeover, one-on-one mentoring sessions with some of the country's top bands, and intensive music workshops in Boracay. The young musicians were also able to perform alongside their band idols.

"We had a great time from day one to the finals night," said Villegas. "We took the learning sessions seriously, making the most of the rare opportunity to interact with Hey Hatsunikugaru, Sandwich's Raimund Marasigan and other musical geniuses. They shared valuable advice on how we young artists could improve and we've taken all their pointers when we perform."



SOUNDSKOOL finalists celebrate in Boracay.



FINALISTS have fun underwater.

SATURDAY Special



WOODS AND PACQUIAO. Too much, too soon!

Feet of clay

Role model

Sports heroes

Comic*Relief*

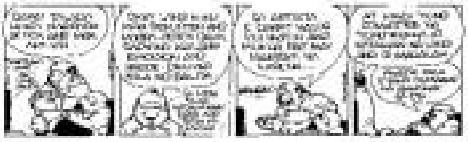
GARFIELD



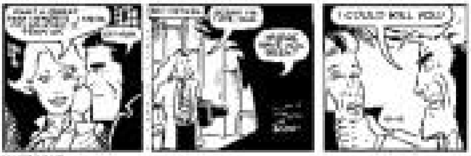
A. LIPIN



PUGAD BABOY



DICK TRACY



LONGSHOTS



JAMES BOND



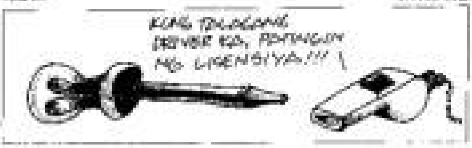
DIVINE COMEDY



BABY BLUES



TULDOK



BEN



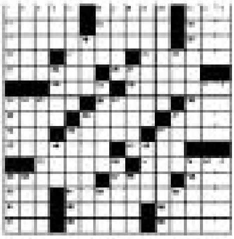
ATOMO AND WEBOY

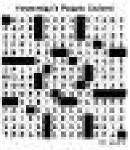


KIKO MACHINE



CROSSWORD PUZZLE





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

			4	8				6
7								
1	5			9				
5		8					9	
	9						4	
	4					1		2
				7			3	1
								8
6				5	2			

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

My fond memories of Celia and Cocoy Laurel



Spanish temperament

Incident

Finding meaning in Yuletide luster

Lotus Pond

Spirituality

Out-of-the-box filmmaker wins big at Cinema One fest



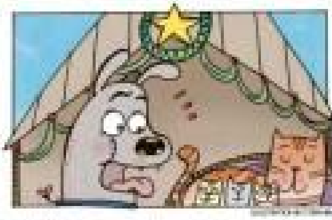
Request

Mood



YULETIDE STORY FOR YOUNG READERS

The Christmas Eve Boo Lost His Bark



Frenzy

Warm feeling



"THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG." A happy ending

New princess joins Disney royals

Emergence

Feet of clay



SATURDAY Special



Sharon, Sarah take musical trip down memory lane

By Rito P. Asilo

SHARON CUNETA AND SARAH Geronimo represent different generations of stars who can act and sing well—even without the help of the recording industry's vast technological innovations. Sadly, the stars' musical careers always take a back seat to their more financially lucrative acting endeavors. So, their new recordings are always welcome treats to music buffs who are tired of listening to the growing number of "recording" artists who can't really sing.

There's a lot of good singing in Sharon and Sarah's latest albums, "Musika at Pag-ibig" and "Music and Me," respectively, in which they take their listeners on musical trips down memory lane. The Megastar's refreshing 14-track repertoire is composed of reimagined OPM favorites, while Sarah's 14-song lineup mostly consists of '80s and '90s-era ballads, as well as a smattering of R&B tunes and movie theme songs.



CUNETA. Reassuring gifts.

Sass and style

[illegible]



GERONIMO. A step in the right direction.

[illegible] and middle voice registers.

[illegible]

Singing style

[illegible]

Like Sharon, Sarah Geronimo also has "evolved" [illegible] ... "Music and Me" is a step in the right direction.

[illegible]

Down to earth

[illegible]

Tobey Maguire goes to war for 'Brothers'

NEW YORK—HOLLYWOOD HAS finally realized that Tobey Maguire has grown up. The actor who played Peter as a youth in the "Spider-Man" movies has embraced fatherhood and a new role as a soldier whose family is torn apart by war.

Difficulties

The 34-year-old actor is now a married father of two and appears in his first film in two years since "Spider-Man 3," the adult drama "Brothers," which looks at soldiers returning from Afghanistan. "Brothers" explores the psychological ravages of war and points to the difficulties soldiers face after returning to their loved ones in the United States.



MAGUIRE (WITH GYLLENHAAL, RIGHT): His new drama explores the psychological ravages of war.

TOBEY, H4



New talents have tough time measuring up to tilt's standards



Combination

Performing myths

Expectation

'Dracula' gets action-oriented screen makeover



Negotiations

Tasty tsokolate

Word of Mouth

Sandy Daza

Tradition

Pinoy creation

Original version

Tobey Maguire goes to war for 'Brothers'

Remake

No distraction

'Hello, Earth' musicale at Festival Supermall

Abot Tanaw salutes Manny Pacquiao

Ironido Papin and Melissa Manchester



PACQUIAO: Unique ability to bring Filipinos together

Concert at the Park

Movies on TV

'Sweeney Todd'



MANCHESTER AND PAPIN: Back-to-back show at PICC

Mega Balikbayan Expo



Less than thoroughly uplifting

Lead roles

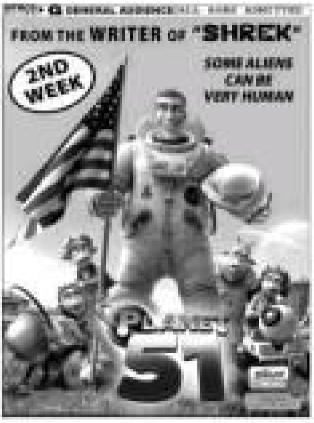
Expensive dreams

Disappearance



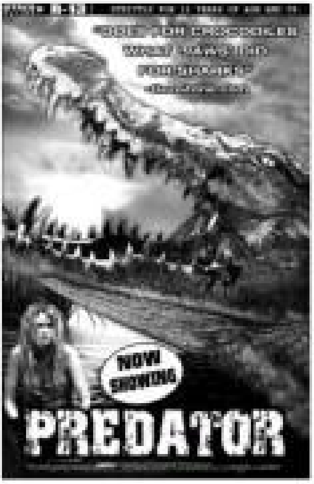




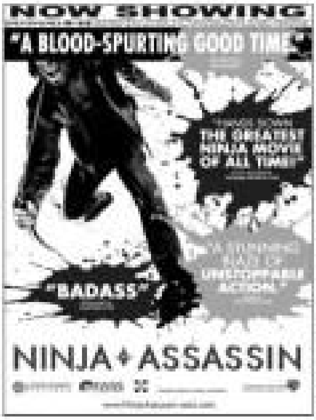


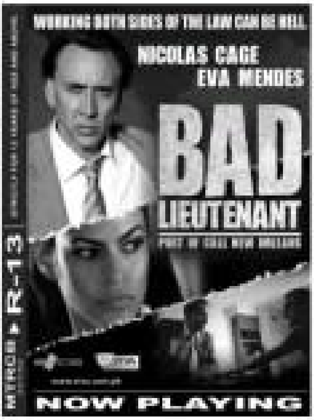












Retrospectives, special events enhance film buffs' viewing options





Golden oldies

New book



'Hello, Earth' musicale at Festival Supermall

MONTAGE

Christmas at Starmall

HBO treats

SATURDAY Special

Vilma Santos embraces true meaning of Christmas

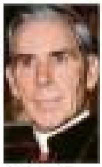


Ultimate payback

Exchanging gifts

Mothers





SHEEN: His 30th death anniversary was observed Dec. 9.

Prelate was a natural on TV

By [illegible]

IN THE 1950S, a beloved Catholic prelate, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, captivated millions of viewers with his TV show "Life Is Worth Living," whose reruns are aired on EWTN. For his performance on the program, Sheen was awarded an Emmy for Most Outstanding Television Personality. Dec. 9 marked his 30th death anniversary.

Sheen tackled relevant issues and used his wit and sense of humor as he dispensed advice. Known for his hypnotic gaze and dramatic delivery, he was a natural on TV. His timing and sensitivity were impeccable, noted the Catholic Post, which carried a news story about his death in 1979. The paper reported that Sheen received an average of 20,000 letters a day while he was hosting his TV show.

Priesthood

Ordained to the priesthood in 1919, he entered on radio when he became a speaker for a Catholic evening broadcast. By 1950, Sheen was already seen in 123 TV stations across the US, and reached 30 million people a week.

Sheen was also well known in academic circles. He taught philosophy at the Catholic University of America in Washington from 1926 to 1950. A prolific writer, he wrote the book, "Life Is Worth Living," which inspired his TV series.

The Post further quoted him when he complained that people didn't talk much about the [illegible].

Cause

The cause for his beatification was officially launched in 2002. The Catholic News Agency has announced on its webpage: "His impact on Catholics and non-Catholics alike has led to his cause for beatification, and it is progressing quite well in Rome."

In the hearts of Catholics forty several decades ago, Archbishop Sheen will be remembered fondly as one of the foremost communicators and televangelists of the last century.

Animated feature's instructive insight overstays its welcome



"PLANET 51": Valuable lessons in diversity

Terrified populace

Differences

Substance . . .

Sensibility



Orchestra is a Fil-Am miracle



THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN Symphony Orchestra (Fasō) is the first and only Filipino symphony orchestra outside the Philippines.



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Significance

Harmony

Substance trounces spectacle in Clooney-Streep, Poe starrers

NOW SHOWING

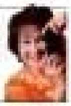
By Rito P. Asilo

Dangerous day job



"FANTASTIC MR. FOX"

Unique party marks Reli's milestone



STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Close friends

